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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6758

BILL NUMBER: SB 264

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 31, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Regional Sewer Districts.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Meeks R

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a regional sewer district to base its charges to property served by the district on metered service at the request of the property owner. The bill establishes an appeals board to hear appeals from regional sewer district board decisions and to make recommendations to the district board on those decisions.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Establishing an appeals board to hear appeals from regional sewer district board decisions and to make recommendations to the district board on those decisions will affect expenditures of the district. Appeals board members are not entitled to payment for serving as a member of the board; however, the member is entitled to be reimbursed for expenses incurred. The district is required to pay all expenses of the board as well as provide all supplies and support services for the board's operation. The fiscal impact is indeterminable and will depend, in part, on the number of appeals filed.

Under existing laws, a person would only be able to bring suit effectively in a court if the person could show that the rate was illegally established. Under the proposal the person could also challenge the action of the appeals board in a local court having jurisdiction. Consequently, local courts could experience a change in administrative expenses resulting from aggrieved parties bringing action. The impact, if any, on the courts is indeterminable.

Explanation of Local Revenues: Requiring regional sewer districts to base charges to properties served by the district on metered service at the request of the property owner could affect revenues collected by the districts. Revenues would decrease if metered service, which would reflect actual usage, resulted in a decline in charges; revenues would increase if metered service reflected that customers should be paying more. The impact could vary from by district. A property owner must pay the costs of establishing metered service to the property.

The appeals board could impact revenues to the extent that the recommendations of the appeals board to the district could be implemented by the district and could result in either an increase or decrease in revenues collected.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Regional sewer districts and local courts.

Information Sources:

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